

Andisols form from weathering processes that generate minerals with little orderly crystalline structure. These minerals can result in an unusually high water- and nutrient-holding capacity.

As a group, Andisols tend to be highly productive soils. They include weakly weathered soils with much volcanic glass as well as more strongly weathered soils. They are common in cool areas with moderate to high precipitation, especially those areas associated with volcanic materials.

ANDISOLS MAKE UP ABOUT 1% OF THE WORLD'S ICE-FREE LAND SURFACE.